

In the Matter of ET Docket 03-104: Broadband over Power Line inquiry

I am opposed to the deployment of Broadband over Power Line or Power Line Communication for the following reasons:

There are inherent limitations existing in the current infrastructure in the US namely- the problems of transfer through transformers, issues with fluorescent lighting, data security, and electric engines to name a few. The costs of retrofitting the infrastructure for PLC are estimated to vary widely from area to area but could be enormous. Current manufacturers of BPL modems CANNOT guarantee that PLC would even work in our homes, because of phasing problems with house wiring. In addition a quick look at the specifications for BPL modems indicate a frequency of 1.6 to 30 Mhz. This covers a very large portion of the radio spectrum in use by licensed entities, law enforcement and amateur radio operators. It has been conclusively proven that BPL would all but eliminate the capability to communicate within this frequency range.

There are very good reasons why Germany and Japan regulators have limited radiation levels for PLC.

While I understand, and am sympathetic to, the goals of reducing the costs of electricity delivery management, the promise of fast, reliable and inexpensive Internet access available in every room in our homes, and the ability to reach every neighborhood in the country, I don't believe BPL is the right answer.